

# ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** May 14, 2015

**Agenda Item:** Flathead Lake Fishing Access Site

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Endorsement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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## **Background**

FWP is seeking commission approval to conduct due diligence toward potentially acquiring a fishing access site on west side of Flathead Lake near Dayton in Lake County. The site is located on Highway 93 along the lakeshore. A private landowner approached FWP and expressed interest in selling a parcel of land to FWP (approximately 15 acres). The site would provide lake access for anglers in an area that provides good fishing for lake trout, lake whitefish, and yellow perch.

## **Public Involvement Process & Results**

FWP has been in discussions regarding the potential acquisition for about a month. If approved, FWP would continue discussions with the private landowner, prepare an environmental assessment, and seek public comment on acquiring the site.

## **Alternatives & Analysis**

FWP could discontinue discussions with the landowner and continue to look for additional access opportunities elsewhere. Alternatively, acquisition of this site would provide closer access to the Wild Horse Island State Park than all other access sites, and space is available for plentiful parking, a boat ramp and vault latrine.

## **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends that the commission endorse its request to continue discussions and conduct due diligence towards potentially acquiring the property. Public access is limited on Flathead Lake and this acquisition would ensure FWP access into the future, because the other nearby sites (Elmo FAS and Big Arm State Park) are leased sites which have an uncertain future.

## **Proposed Motion**

I move that the commission endorse FWP's request to negotiate the acquisition of a fishing access site on Flathead Lake near Dayton.